EPITAPH To A Week

By LARRY POWELL

Last week Texarkanians — a lot of them — observed the first air show in Texarkana in 10 years and saw, not only a display of aerial artistry by a couple of Louisiana stunt flyers, but a parachute jumping exhibition by seven members of a skydiving club.

Well, in reality only a few people saw the actual jump because the big plane carrying the jumpers was at various times either obscured by clouds or veiled by blinding rays from old Sol. And, only a few people saw the actual landings of the jumpers.

That's because the best of the leaps terminated more than a mile from the target area which was between two runways at the Texarkana Municipal Airport.

AMONG THE people who expected the jumpers to hit right on target were the folks who put the big orange and white nylon target down on the runways and told news photographers, "Ya'all stay back out of the way. We don't want anybody hurt. They're going to be coming right in here."

THEY DIDN'T come "right in here." Six of the seven jumpers missed the target area because of the traffic.

No, not the air traffic—the air traffic controllers were apparently happily working in their new tower at the airport—but the traffic on Highway 67 around the airport.

Rather than wait for a report from the first jumper who left his lofty perch to check the wind currents for the other six, and to relay his information by radio to his comrades, the plane made a second pass over the airport and six of its passengers "hit the silk" as they say in old motion pictures.

THE RESULTS of the jumps were so dramatic that a rumor circulating at one of the local banks Thursday claimed that one of the men had landed at Ashdown. Actually, all six of the parachutists landed somewhere to the southeast of the airport. Following the old Boy Scout rule of "When lost go toward the sound of the nearest superhighway," the jumpers were recovered.

AMONG THE dignataries at the airport on the overcast day was Arkansas Congressman David Pryor. When the young U. S. representative was introduced the clouds broke and the rays of the sun flashed down on the airport. Maybe it was the emotion of the moment, but a woman in the crowd, in what may well be America's best stage whisper, said, "Boy, he's good looking. That's one vote. Right, congressman?

WHEN FOUR Texas City Councilmen inspected the police equipment in a spot check last week, they found that one of the nightsticks in a patrol car had been broken. "One of the officers hit a rat over the head with it," a smiling Chief Harold McGee told the councilmen. "I thought we didn't have any rats in Texarkana," Councilman Larry Patterson quipped.

TWO PERSONS, in addition to the patrolman, reported seeing rats on two separate occassions in Texarkana, Tex., last week. Both rats were reported to be running east. One was in a residential section of the city and another was seen scampering down Seventh Street across the state line into Arkansas. Extradition proceedings may begin soon.

THE 21ST ARMED robbery of the year in the Twin Cities was also staged last week. This time by the "Bermuda Bandit. "He wore khaki-colored bermuda shorts and a hippie-vest. And he dazzled police with his le g work. He got away on foot.

AS IF the police had time to fool with casually dressed bandits and other rats, the department wound up having to settle another civil dispute last week. One unit was sent to a disturbance and radioed in, "It's just a husband and wife and boy friend argument. No blows were exchanged, the husband just reclaimed his wife."

Came the query from another officer, "Was that a repossession?"

BUMPER STICKER GIRLS — Sally Trigg, kneeling, and Debbie Davenport, students at Arkansas Senior High School, secure a Hayes McClerkin sticker to the bumper of a pick-up truck in the College Hill Shopping Center parking lot Saturday. The girls were part of the "Bumper Sticker Day" force handing out campaign material for the candidate for governor of Arkansas. (Staff Photo by Harold Koppe.)

TEXARKANIAN IN GERMANY — Spec. Five Joseph Porter, left, of Texarkana, Tex., assists a gunner in perimeter defense training in Kitzingen, Germany. Porter is presently serving with the 34th Signal Battalion in Ludwigsburg, Germany, as an assistant gunner and supply clerk with Headquarters Company of the 34th Battalion.

IN MT. PLEASANT

Water Shortage Continues

Mt. Pleasant, Tex., to avoid a water shortage, is now pumping water from nearby Cypress Creek at a rate of 55.00 gallons per hour, says City Manager John Sarris.

Sarris said the action was taken to keep city lakes from getting "dangerously low." He said the pumps would operate only seven hours per day.

Engineer reports, Sarris said, show that with full reservoirs, Mt. Pleasant has only a four-month supply of water if usage continues at the present rate.

VICTOR LEBSACK was recently employed as a Titus County deputy sheriff in the Mt. Pleasant area, to replace Deputy Hughlan Barrett, who resigned last week.

Lebsack is a native of Colorado and retired from the Air Force July 1, 1970.

ATLANTA, Tex. Major Russel Alexander has announced notification has been received from the Texas Department of Health of approval of preliminary engineers report on a $440,000 sewer improvement project for Atlanta.

The project, to be partially funded by the Texas water Quality Board, facilities, renovation of the present life station and construction of a lift station, costing about $1.5 million.

A spokesman for the Water Quality Board said the granting of approval by the State Health Department was a major requirement for any town applying for a WQB grant.

Alexander says a detailed description of the project, with figures and proposals was in the formative stage and will be submitted to Atlanta's City Council upon completion.

TWO CASS COUNTY SCHOOLS will receive grants totalling over $20,000 from the U. S. Department of Education, Congressman Wright Patman announced last week.

According to the congressman, McLeod School District will receive $1,809 and Hughes Springs School District will receive $18,402.

The funds, Rep. Patman said, were awarded as impact aid under Public Law 874.

ASHDOWN ARK., CITY COUNCIL voted last week to add 52 street lights to the present city lighting system at a cost of $62.70 monthly for the city, and voted to purchase two air tanks and masks for the Ashdown fire department.

The action in the meeting also included a request that residents of Ashdown make sure their houses are numbered clearly so that in cases of emergency, addresses could be easily found.

The meeting of the council was ended when a member was called away on an emergency and dropped the level of attendance below the required quorum.

Members of the council also discussed possible steps to secure the annexation of property owners to the sewer system where the houses are within the disarnce required by law.

MRS. MARGARET DANIEL, of Burke Street Elementary School in Ashdown has been elected to a three-year term of the Arkansas Elementary School Council.

The appointment was announced by A. W. Ford, commissioner of Education. Mrs. Daniel will serve as a representative of elementary principals.

THREE LONG DISTANCE circuits have been installed between DeKalb, Tex., and Texarkana, giving a total of 24 circuits between the two exchanges, according to E. D. Houck, division manager for General Telephone of the Southwest.

Houck said the expansion was provided for the anticipated increase in long distance usage and in the number of telephone customers in DeKalb.

Additions are made on the basis of telephone surveys designed to determine future communication requirements.

HOOKS, TEX., received a Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant of $505,000 to help finance improvements in the Hooks water system to provide better fire protection and to meet increased water needs expected as a result of continuing growth.

Water for the new system will be supplied by the Lake Texarkana Water Supply Corporation.

Paralyzed GI Sent To Viet

CLEVELAND (UPI) — The Army is planning to send an Ohio soldier suffering back injuries and partial paralysis back to Vietnam.

Sgt. Larry Dawsen, 23, is due to be sent into the war zone about Sept. 1.

Dawsen, of Olmstead Falls, Ohio, broke his back in two places in a helicopter crash in Vietnam two years ago, and still suffers partial paralysis.

Dawsen said he was turned down in November of 1968, when he applied for reserve officer training duty because his injuries prohibit physical chores.

But officials at Fort Knox, where Dawsen is currently stationed, told the Pentagon that Dawsen's records show he is "medically qualified for limited duty without geographical restriction."

Dawsen has requested that his transfer be deferred for medical reasons.

IN THE TWIN CITIES

Week in Review

Three congressmen-two from Arkansas and one from Texas-were among the estimated 3,000 persons who attended Texarkana's first air show in 10 years Sunday at the Texarkana Municipal Airport.

Congressman Wright Patman of Texarkana, David Pryor of Camden and John Paul Hammerschmidt of Harrison took part in the dedication of the new facilities at the airport including the air traffic control tower, extended runways and other improvements.

FOUR TEXARKANA, Tex. city councilmen made surprise check of equipment in the city's police cars Sunday and found that some cars did not have first aid kits and other equipment required.

Councilmen Dr. Georgie Dugan, David Keller, Bill Thomspon and Larry Patterson made the spot-check and found cars lacking fire extinguishes, first aid kits and shotgun shells for police shotguns. Some of the first aid kits contained unmarked bottles, compressed that had been opened and tounge depressors bound by a rubber band that had collected dirt.

Dr. Dugan said he expected the council to discuss purchasing better equipment for police cars.

A FARE HIKE was approved by the Texas side city council Monday night on a temporary basis confirming the verbal agreement made last week by city manager Ben Miseli to officials of the American Transit Corp. for the continued operation of the city bus service.

The hike, from 25 to 35 cents for adults, was one of two proposals the council heard at the meeting concerning bus service. Bill Flatte, operator of the local Yellow Cab Co., asked the councilmen to grant him a franchise and promised he would buy new air conditioned buses and proposed construction of an air conditioned terminal.

Councilmen also discussed purchasing new ambulances reallocated some Model Cities supplemental funds for projects that can be finished this fiscal year which ends July 31.

A SPOT CHECK of several model neighborhoods revealed that several families were not counted in the recent census, Arkansas side Model Cities Director Tom McRae said this week.

However, census takers have taken the defense and say they didn't miss anyone in the count.

Unofficial reports from the Model Cities director said 19 families of 116 checked in the model neighborhood areas were not counted. A special chamber of commerce committee is trying to get a recount of the Texarkana area.

AN AUDIT OF the city finances of Texarkana, Ark., gives the city "a clean bill of health" city manager Paul Schriever announced this week.

Schriever said Thomas and Thomas, local certified public accountants who performed the audit, made a few recommendations concerning the city's internal controls but the city manager said these are "part of the refining of accounting and fiscal control systems of the city."

Auditors recommended tightened internal controls in the city's petty cash fund, changes in distribution of payroll checks and a few other changes be implemented.

PETITION to change the Texarkana, Ark., city government is being killed by its sponsors, the members of the Committee for Representative Government, because the city administrator form they desired gives the mayor veto power.

N.H. Hilliard, chairman of the group, said the petition had the required number of signatures but said the committee did not want to give the mayor the veto power. He said the group would meet Monday night to determine what to do with the petition.

TEXAN DECLINES DINNER INVITATION

Kennedy Snubbed By Justice

AUSTIN (AP) —Chief Justice Robert W. Calvert of Texas says he would rather skip the American Bar Association's annual dinner than sit at the head table beside Sen. Edward (Teddy) Kennedy, D-Mass., the main speaker.

Kennedy's involvement in the Chappaquiddick tragedy in which Mary Joe Kopechne drowned, and Kennedy's political sins were given as reasons by Calvert, 63, Texas' top jurist for almost 20 years.

Calvert is a former head of the state Democratic party and former speaker of the Texas House.

"Under the circumstances, I prefer to absent myself from the dinner rather than to be present and appear to approve a program to which I am so strongly opposed," Calvert said in a letter to U.S. Dist. Judge Frank Murray of Boston, chairman of the ABA Section of Judicial Administration.

Calvert also sent copies of the letter to the chief justices of all the states, who also will be honored at the dinner.

Calvert's letter was first disclosed in a story in the Houston Chronicle.

Calvert told the Chronicle he preferred not to comment on the July 9 letter and also would prefer that no news story be written.

William B. West III of Dallas, chairman-elect of the ABA Judicial Section, also received a copy of the letter but refused to disclose its contents or comment.

Calvert, as first vice chairman of the National Conference of State Chief Justices, is in line for automatic promotion to chairman and as the new chairma, would automatically be seated next to the guest speaker, Kennedy, at the Aug. 10 dinner.

Here is the complete text of Calvert's letter to Murray:

"I was surprised to learn recently that U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy will be the guest speaker at the dinner honoring the judiciary to be given on Aug. 10 by the ABA Section of Judicial Administration of which you are chairman. I have been informed that the invitation to Senator Kennedy was tendered and accepted before the Kopechne tragedy at Chappaquiddick. Be that as it may, I, nevertheless, must decline your invitation.

"I recognize that the question of whether to attend or not to attend the dinner is one which must be committed to the conscience of each justice or judge who is invited. For my part, an additional reason for declining your invitation is that I am opposed to use of the judiciary as a backdrop for purely partisan or personal political purposes. A press conference held recently in Dallas, Tex., by Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law (Sargeant Shriver) leaves little doubt that Senator Kennedy is still a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.

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